

I support retaining the code requirement of 5 WPM as currently required.

There is no evidence that recent "relaxation" of requirements has substantially increased the ranks of Amateur Radio operators. As matter of fact catastrophes such as Katrina will probably generate more interest than once again lowering the bar.

Currently the bands are segmented somewhat according to license class and mode of operation. Classically the cost required to gain the privilege of expanded access is higher qualifications. This is true in all aspects of our society and is necessary to maintain order and discipline and should be maintained in Amateur Radio as well. To simply drop a discriminating skill from the requirements for no good reason serves no purpose except to expose the lack of respect for those who have labored to be qualified to gain that privilege and to eventually lead to chaos and confusion. The current direction of continuing to reduce requirements will soon lead to just that - chaos and confusion on the Amateur bands. The obvious result will be the elimination of the Amateur Radio operator and the loss of a national resource in the face of the increasing cataclysmic events of our times.

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